

1. (Amended) A cut-through path control method at a router device at which multi-path exists, comprising:

Q<sup>1</sup> selecting one router among a plurality of routers that can possibly be a next hop router so as to contribute to a load balancing, according to a whole or a prescribed part of information regarding a state of cut-through path set up in which the router device is involved, at a time of setting up a cut-through path in the multi-path; and

carrying out a prescribed control for setting up the cut-through path with said one router as the next hop router.

10. (Amended) A cut-through path control method at a router device at which multi-path exists, comprising:

Q<sup>2</sup> selecting one cut-through path that contributes to a load balancing when a route change is made, among cut-through paths for which the route change at the router device is possible; and

changing a route of said one cut-through path so as to contribute to the load balancing.

21. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the setting up of the cut-through path starts at a timing of receiving a message for setting up the cut-through path from a node device on an upstream side of said router device, and

Q<sup>3</sup> wherein said selecting step selects said one router according to a number of already set up cut-through paths that are used to route packets to a same destination node that is also included in the message for setting up the cut-through path that is received by said router device.